1	SUPERIOR COURT IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA
2	IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF YAVAPAI
	JEANNE HICKS, CLERK
3	Matherine Glenn
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5	STATE OF ARIZONA,) Yavapai Superior) Court No.
6) P1300CR20081339 Plaintiff,)
7) Excerpt of Jury
8) Argument re
9	STEVEN CARROLL DEMOCKER,) Sanction Motion)
10	Defendant.)
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13	Proceedings held before the Honorable Thomas B. Lindberg
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15	Prescott, Arizona May 28, 2010 11:33 to 12:01 p.m.
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21	Sandra K Markham, CR, RPR, CSR
22	Certified Reporter Arizona License No. 50001
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:32:38 1 | THE COURT: I will deny that request.

I had a pending motion in connection with sanctions pointed toward, in particular, some Sorenson Lab testing and I am not sure that we had ever concluded with all -- any other sanction requests, so tell me, if you would, what other sanction motions you feel have not been adequately ruled on.

MS. CHAPMAN: Your Honor, I think that is the remaining sanction motion. I think there are some other issues that are still out there that aren't sanctions related, but I think the Sorenson motion is the only pending sanction motion that I am aware of.

THE COURT: Why don't you take that one up.

MS. CHAPMAN: Sure.

Your Honor, there are two issues with respect to the sanctions with Sorenson. The first, and I think when we were before you several weeks ago, you found that the State had committed a disclosure violation with respect to the testing that Sorenson did, and you had taken the matter under advisement --

THE COURT: Right.

MS. CHAPMAN: -- in terms of what sanction to impose.

We filed the motion to further detail the disclosure violations with respect to both the late

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testing and the false reporting, and then there is also
the issue which I think is a separate issue of the
destruction of the biological evidence without notice to
the Court or to the defense and in violation of your
order, and with respect to that, your Honor, we have asked
you to preclude that evidence.

So I will take it up in that order to speak about.

THE COURT: Is there evidence that resulted from that, I guess, first of all?

MS. CHAPMAN: From the destruction of the biological evidence?

THE COURT: Yes. From the swabs that were taken off the bike.

MS. CHAPMAN: Your Honor, my understanding and as indicated in the State's response, after the State both took swabs of the handle bars with the intent to remove all of the DNA from the handle bars of the bike and also took swabs of the parts of the seat with the intent to remove all available biological evidence from those parts of the bike, they then consumed in their entirety without notice to the Court or to the defense the swabs from those areas and what they did was autosomal DNA testing, and my understanding is that at the time they were looking for any evidence of the victim's DNA or biological evidence.

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Finding none, apparently now their argument is that because they didn't find any of Mr. Democker's DNA on the handle bars, that they should be able to -- to introduce evidence of that.

Your Honor, they did not do YSTR testing on those areas and that's the kind of testing that would be most sensitive and able to determine whether

Mr. Democker's biological material was on the bike.

Because of their consumption of the swabs and again, your Honor, they did that while the defense expert was present at Sorenson, but outside of her view and we don't have any idea why that is, nor have they provided any reason why they then later approved the consumption of those swabs in their entirety without notice to the Court or to the defense and outside the observation of the defense witness.

So I think what they have said, your Honor, in their response is that they would like to be able to argue that Mr. Democker's DNA should be in the places that they swabbed and consumed without notice. Doing the kind of testing that's not the most sensitive kind of testing to determine if that biological evidence is there and without any opportunity by the defense to either be present for the swabbing or be present for the testing that's consumptive and now we will never be able to do

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YSTR testing on those swabs because they were consumed, 2 3 use and that one would use in the event that you were looking for male DNA.

the extra, I take it, from the swab, back in July of 2008.

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and that's the kind of testing that you would expect to 11:37:08 11:37:11 11:37:13 11:37:15 5 The State did not do that. They didn't consult with anyone before they did not do that, and they 11:37:17 11:37:20 7 have now destroyed those swabs such that that cannot be 11:37:22 8 done by anyone. 9 So with respect to the bike, your Honor, we 11:37:24 think that the appropriate sanction is to prohibit the 11:37:27 10 11:37:29 11 State from mentioning that evidence to the jury at this point, and I don't know if you want to take it up one at a 11:37:34 12 time. 11:37:37 13 14 THE COURT: I don't think so. 11:37:39 No. 11:37:42 15 MR. BUTNER: Mr. Papore. 11:37:43 16 THE COURT: Mr. Papore. Thank you, your Honor. 11:37:44 17 MR. PAPORE: First of all, the bike was swabbed by 11:37:45 18 Kortney Snider, the handle bars and the seat, back in July 19 11:37:52 20 of 2008. She was looking for the -- she first visually 11:37:58 checked the bike out, the handle bars and the seat, and a 11:38:06 21 little bag that hangs under the seat. She did a visual 11:38:09 22 check for blood. Did not see any. So she swabbed the 23 11:38:12 handle bars and the seat and did consumption testing on 24 11:38:15

1 11:38:27 The bike was brought to Sorenson on February 2 17th of this year, 2010, and while it's true that while 11:38:33 3 Norah Rudin was at the lab, the bike was swabbed. 4 That swab. The extract taken from not tested however. 5 that swab. It was later tested in April, and it really confirmed the examination and test by Arizona DPS lab that 7 there was no DNA from Mr. Democker located on that bike. There was a mixture on the handle bars to --8 and it was DNA obtained that was attributable to an 9

unknown male. This is from Sorenson. Both Mr. Democker and Mr. Knapp were excluded from that major DNA profile.

The minor component of the mixture from. Sorenson's stated no meaningful comparison to be made of the donor.

We have learned from interviewing Ms. Norah Rudin who was present at the lab, but did not observe the serology of the bike, that her interpretation of the analysis -- of the tests that were run on the DNA -- on the swabbing from the bike excluded both Mr. Democker and Mr. Knapp from the -- as donors to this minor DNA component.

So really the testing of the bike at Sorenson was just a retesting of what the DPS lab did, and it's not true, your Honor, that the evidence -- it is true that the swab was consumed. It is not true that the bike

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40:41 1 could not be re-swabbed in other areas, including the seat
40:46 2 and other DNA tests could be performed.

The bike was tested first in July of 2008. At no time am I aware that the defense has requested an independent test of that bike during all that period of time. It remained in YCSO custody in a cardboard box properly sealed and kept away from the elements.

Again, according to the defense's expert,

Norah Rudin, she said that it was very likely that,

because DNA is so durable, that DNA would still be present

on that bike in other areas.

So to say that the evidence is gone is simply not a matter of fact. If further testing were desired of that bike, it could be done, but I suspect that the results are not going to be any different than what Kortney Snider found or what Sorenson laboratory found.

THE COURT: So what's the evidence being admitted to prove or suggest -- are you suggesting that you are not going to use the testing that was done in any fashion?

MR. BUTNER: No, your Honor. We -- I think that the absence of Mr. Democker's DNA as both concluded by Kortney Snider back in July of 2008 and then confirmed by Sorenson this year is what the State wants to present to the jury.

THE COURT: As probative of what?

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1 11:42:34 MR. PAPORE: As probative of the possibility that 11:42:37 2 the DNA, any trace evidence was wiped away. 3 11:42:41 That's a leap, isn't it? THE COURT: 11:42:44 4 Not when you have the expert saying MR. PAPORE: 11:42:48 5 if someone's riding a bike for -- in the way we understood 11:42:52 to be riding, there should be deposits of DNA on there, 11:42:56 7 and the absence of it could not be explained. 8 THE COURT: Invariably if I touch something, it's 11:42:59 11:43:02 9 going to leave my DNA on it. 10 MR. PAPORE: Yes. THE COURT: Is what you are saying? 11:43:04 11 12 MR. PAPORE: Well, in actuality. 11:43:07 11:43:13 13 THE COURT: And given that there wasn't notice of the consumption, the destruction of the swabs that were 14 11:43:22 taken, how was that in compliance with the Court's orders? 11:43:24 15 MR. PAPORE: Your Honor, that decision to swab 11:43:29 16 the bike while Ms. Norah Rudin was there, according to the 17 11:43:35 interview of Dan Hellwig, detective and lead in charge of 18 11:43:40 this aspect of the case, made the decision. It was --11:43:47 19 In violation of the Court's order? 20 THE COURT: 11:43:51 11:43:53 21 Correct? 22 MR. PAPORE: Yes. I would have to say that, 11:43:54 because during an interview with -- conducted by 11:43:56 23 24 Mr. Hammond, he acknowledged that he was aware of the 11:44:02

Court's order. He acknowledged that the list of items

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11:44:14 1 contained in your order did not include the bike and
11:44:23 2 without any direction from the State, made the decision to
11:44:31 3 do a serology on the bike. That's exactly what happened.
11:44:38 4 THE COURT: The -- and he made the decision
11:44:42 5 independent of the County Attorney's office in terms of

independent of the County Attorney's office in terms of what type of testing to then do? He or a member of the staff at Sorenson?

MR. PAPORE: Well, he, in his interview, I think it was this week -- I am losing track of time, but I think it was this week.

THE COURT: Aren't we all.

MR. PAPORE: And he said what he -- when he instructed the criminalist to do the -- or the lab analyst to do the swabbing, he said at that time he never expected to run any tests on the swabbing. He did that because the bike was taking up too much room in his storage locker and since Captain Rhodes was there.

THE COURT: He wanted to send it back --

MR. PAPORE: That's what he said.

THE COURT: -- to the Sheriff's office.

Thank you.

MS. CHAPMAN: Your Honor, there are several inaccuracies about what the State just presented.

First, the State specifically, Mr. Butner, approved the consumption of the swab once it was swabbed.

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1:45:47 1 | So there are two layers of consumption here.

The first was the swabbing of the handle bars and the seat. It's also inaccurate to say Kortney Snider swabbed the seat and looked for DNA. Snider swabbed the bike and the handle bars and the pedals looking for blood. She found the presence of Mr. Democker's blood on the bike pump that was attached to the bike. She did not swab the seat at all and she didn't look for DNA or biologic material in a way that Sorenson She did what is called a general swab, which swabbed it. What Sorenson did is a test for the presence of blood. was both a wet and a dry swab with the intention to remove any and all biologic evidence from the handle bars and from the seat.

So the seat had never been swabbed. The handle bars had been swabbed in a general way to look for blood, but never in a wet and dry swab as it was done at Sorenson to look for the presence of biologic evidence.

That may have been done without the permission of the State, although the items were all taken there by Detective Rhodes and left there with directions to Sorenson about what to do and Detective Rhodes was present at the time that swabbing was done.

Again Norah Rudin was at the lab, but that testing -- and she was there, your Honor, and the State's

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pleading of -- was May 18th, which listed the items that
would be consumed and tested, acknowledges that swabbing
is consumptive because some of those items that were
li47:10 4 listed were items to be swabbed and they acknowledge that
swabbing was consumptive. For example, the cell phone
li47:15 6 battery.

The second level of consumption was specifically approved by Mr. Butner without notice to the Court, without notice to the defense, without any notice whatsoever and with no explanation from the State even here today.

That consumption testing completely eliminates the possibility for the defense to do the additional testing on these areas that Mr. Papore suggests might be appropriate, and that testing was done for the wrong kind of tests, if what evidence they were looking for was evidence of Mr. Democker's DNA.

So for them to stand up now and say, well, we consumed the items without notice and in violation of the Court's orders, we then performed the wrong kind of testing to look for what we were looking for, and now we want to argue the inference of the absence of what we didn't look for correctly, to the jury, is simply mind boggling.

We would ask, your Honor to preclude the

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11:48:14 1 | mention of that evidence.

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The other inaccuracy is there is the suggestion by Mr. Papore that if you touch anything, your DNA will be left on it. All of the experts, including the State's experts in this case, have acknowledged that the occurrence of touched DNA is highly uncertain. Dr. Rudin did not say in her interview either that she could exclude Jim Knapp or that she would necessarily expect DNA to be on the handle bars.

What she said is there are a large number of variables about what happens with respect to touched DNA and that she disagreed with the confusing language that Sorenson used in some of their lab results.

Now, the State wants to take that explanation of the confusing language from Sorenson results and apply it to part of their tests, but not all of them and also apply it incorrectly and inconsistently with what Dr. Rudin said.

So, your Honor, with respect to the consumption of the testing -- or excuse me -- consumption of the swabs and the swabbing of themselves, we think both of those were in violation of the Court's order.

Sorenson knew of the Court's order.

Mr. Butner certainly was aware of the Court's order. The

State knew they were consuming evidence items at two

phases, and they performed the wrong kind of testing to look for what they now want to suggest they didn't find.

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Your Honor, the second issue is that we think that because the State waited over 20 months to perform this testing at all, when DPS advised them back in August of 2008 you should do YSTR testing on these items, please give us a call, and the State did nothing for 20 months and then when they finally got around to doing the testing two-and-a-half weeks before trial, those test results were inaccurate and it took the defense going to Sorenson to spend several days of interviews of Sorenson employees for them to correct those inaccurate results.

And, in addition, to excluding the evidence of the bike, your Honor, we also ask you to impose costs both for the defense expert to travel to Salt Lake and view what apparently was only part of the consumptive testing going on and with respect to the defense counsel having to travel and conduct those interviews and litigate this issue at all at this time, given the State's failure to exercise due diligence with the testing and the incorrect test results that it took a defense interview to reveal on what is arguably one of the most important pieces of exculpatory evidence in this case.

THE COURT: You want to have another word, Mr. Papore?

11:50:50 1 MR. PAPORE: No, your Honor. 11:50:51 2 I think I want to address the second part of her argument about the report because I didn't address 11:50:54 3 4 11:50:56 that. 11:50:58 5 THE COURT: Go ahead. 11:50:59 6 MR. PAPORE: It is true, again, at an interview 11:51:04 7 up in the Sorenson Lab following the -- a lengthy 11:51:09 interview of the analyst, Alexis Brown, which was concluded on one day and we were set for a second round of 11:51:16 9 10 interviews with different people the next day, Ms. Brown 11:51:19 came in first thing in the morning and advised myself and 11 11:51:23 Mr. Hammond -- I will use her words. I don't understand 11:51:28 12 what -- but she called it a typo. She made a typo on her 11:51:35 13 words under Item 10B which is the left-hand fingernail 14 11:51:41 15 clippings of the victim. 11:51:49 11:51:50 16 THE COURT: Right. 11:51:51 17 MR. PAPORE: Her typo is she interposed Mr. DeMocker's name and Mr. Knapp's. 11:51:53 18 19 THE COURT: Right. 11:51:55 20 11:51:56

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MR. PAPORE: And it was brought to our attention by her and I think that to suggest this was -- that the early report was false is incorrect. It was not -- it was not meant to be deceitful or deceptive. It was an error by the analyst, and the person who did the technical review of her information, they caught the error.

Reported it immediately and issued an amended report.

There was absolutely no report that was done for deceitful or deceptive purposes.

The analyst made a mistake. She corrected it. It was not caught by the defense by any means. It was, as I stated, brought to our attention the next day after she was interviewed and went back and I am assuming re -- took a second look at her information, and that is not sufficient reason to preclude the State from using that report.

It would go to the weight obviously and it would be some -- and the analyst would be subject to cross-examination on that point, but to preclude the point -- to preclude the report would be an overkill of what had happened. Every -- every intent to get the information accurate was made and in doing so, they made a mistake, but it was corrected.

So we ask that the State (sic) deny the defense's requests and motion to preclude the use of the Sorenson report, amended report dated April 27, 2010.

MS. CHAPMAN: Your Honor, if I might address, first, let me be very clear. We don't want to preclude the results that completely exculpate our client --

THE COURT: I am sure don't.

MS. CHAPMAN: -- under the fingernails of the

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victim. We're asking, your Honor, to preclude that portion of the report for which consumptive testing was done in violation of the Court's order, which is with respect to Item 400, which is the bike.

Secondly, what we're asking you to do with respect to the 20 month delay in the testing and with respect to the false testing reports is to impose sanctions against the State in addition to the preclusion of any information about Item 400, and those sanctions would be for the cost of Dr. Rudin to attend, for the cost of counsel to travel to Sorenson and conduct the interviews, and for the cost of this litigation.

Now, with respect to what Mr. Papore has said about the report and a typo, it is true Ms. Brown described her error as a typo. Her boss, Dan Hellwig, when interviewed by Mr. Hammond at which Mr. Papore was present clearly said that is not a typo. That's not the kind of thing that a scientist calls a typo. It is not the kind of thing that a regular person calls a typo. It was a reporting error. It was a reporting error caught by the defense because -- and Mr. Papore was there for this, too. In the first day of interview with Alexis Brown, we went through with Alexis Brown allele by allele her purported results that included Mr. Democker in the minor -- excuse me -- couldn't exclude Mr. Democker from

the minor and could exclude Mr. Knapp.

It was through that allele by allele process of talking to her about what her electropherogram showed, what her summary table reported, and what her conclusions stated, that she realized she had made an error.

I think that she acknowledged that in the second day when she acknowledged that she had made the error, although she did call it a typo, but it was specifically through that allele by allele examination done with defense counsel the day before, that Ms. Brown realized that she had made an error on the report.

It was not from her own examination. It defies logic that she would suddenly discover that error the day after her interview with defense counsel and not be affected by the interview going through allele by allele.

And, your Honor, part of the point here, which can't be lost, is if the State had done what it should have done and engaged in this testing 20 months earlier, the defense would have had more time and more careful ability to evaluate this evidence and the errors that came out.

But the State's abdication of that responsibility, the false reporting that the defense then had to travel there to correct, should not be laid at the

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hands of the defense in terms of cost, and so that is why
the separate sanction we are requesting with respect to
those violations is costs for the expense of figuring that
error out, traveling there to do that, and litigating this
issue before you today.

THE COURT: With regard to the bike swabs, the

Court does find that Sorenson was an agent of the, despite

the fact they're an independent lab, was an agent for

these purposes of the State and with regard to the results

on the swab that was wholly consumed without first

obtaining permission to do that or notice to the other

side, I am going to preclude the use of the results of

that testing.

Having found that those actions, as described, to have been a violation of the Court's orders with regard to disclosure of DNA evidence, where the DNA evidentiary items are going to be consumed and as a factual finding, though the seat of the bike may still remain for additional testing, I find that to be insufficient given the nature of my understanding of the DNA testing that was done, that was accomplished and have to be accomplished at this stage of the proceedings.

So I find there to have been a discovery violation or violation of the Court's orders and I will preclude the use of that testing in that argument.

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11:58:10 1 With regard to the financial sanctions, I 2 think I still have the financial sanctions under 3 consideration as part of the other motion. I'll consider whether or not as part of additional sanctions for these purposes to imposing some sort of costs financially. that part of the argument is under advisement in 7 conjunction with the other motion for sanctions that I 8 already have under advisement pertaining to financial 9 sanctions as a possible remedy or sanction.

I had some additional motions.

The State filed a motion in limine to preclude reference to an anonymous email that we have discussed previously.

Other defense motions pending that you think need -- it's noon right now. Why don't we plan on taking the State's motion up.

Give me an idea of what other motions we need to take up this afternoon apart from some idea of preliminary jury instructions settlement.

MR. SEARS: Your Honor, this motion that you just spoke to, to preclude from the State, was filed on May 24th. Certainly our time to respond has not -- is not even close to running, and I indicated I did want to file a response. What I told the State was should this matter not get resolved before opening statements, understand

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we're not comfortable talking about opening statements, 12:00:02 1 2 12:00:04 your Honor, but that I would --

12:01:07	1	some need to do some work on the preliminaries this
12:01:12	2	afternoon, and did receive, as you indicated, some motions
12:01:22	3	concerning preliminary instructions and such.
12:01:26	4	So let's take that up this afternoon.
12:01:30	5	What other motions do you think you need
12:01:32	6	resolved other than obviously the motion in limine
12:01:37	7	pleadings in reference to that?
12:01:38	8	MR. SEARS: The State still has a 15.6 motion
12:01:42	9	that's not been resolved. We can take that up in fairly
12:01:46	10	short order. I don't know there is much to discuss about
12:01:48	11	that.
12:01:49	12	THE COURT: Okay. Anything else that you folks
12:01:51	13	have on the defense side?
12:01:52	14	MR. SEARS: Not yet.
12:01:54	15	THE COURT: All right. We will stand in recess
12:01:57	16	until 1:30.
12:01:59	17	(Noon recess.)
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CERTIFICATE

I, SANDRA K MARKHAM, Certified Reporter, do hereby certify that the foregoing pages constitute a true and accurate transcript of the proceedings had and testimony given in the hearing of the matter entitled as upon the first page hereof.

Dated: June 4, 2010.

Sandra K Markham, CR, RPR, CSR

Certified Reporter Arizona License No. 50001